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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,717	10/24/2003	Holly Knight	MS306958.1/MSFTP545USA	1585

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EXAMINER

CHOW, CHIH CHING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2192

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/693,717	Applicant(s) KNIGHT ET AL.	
	Examiner Chih-Ching Chow	Art Unit 2192	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-20 and 22-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-20 and 22-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. <u>07/12/05</u> |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/13/05, 3/25/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to amendment dated August 11, 2005.
2. Per Applicants' request, claims 1, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 22, 23, and 24 have been amended, claims 9 and 21 canceled.
3. Claims 1-8, 10-20, 22-24 remain pending.

Response to Amendment

4. Applicants' amendment dated 08/11/2005, responding to the 05/11/2005 Office action provided in the rejection of claims 1-24. The examiner has reviewed the updated Specification, claims 1, 8, 10-12, 15, 22-24, and noted that new matter has been introduced into the disclosure. It is noticed that the amended claim 24 is identical as claim 20.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 24 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 24 is identical as claim 20. Appropriate correction is required.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8, 10-20, 22-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Even the canceled claim 9 and claim 21 have covered only part of the amended claim 1.
7. During the telephone interview conducted on 07/12/2005, the Examiner recommended to further limit the scope of the independent claims, the Examiner has not "recite allowable subject matter over the cited references" (see REMARKS, page 6, 2nd paragraph).

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8. Applicants' argument dated 08/11/05, responding to the 05/11/2005 Office action provided in the rejection of claims 1-24. The examiner has reviewed the updated amendments, and noted that new matter has been introduced into the disclosure, therefore a new prior art has to be introduced. The amended part, 'a constant accessor' does not distinguish the prior art of record, XP, even XP doesn't specifically call the input parameter, 'constant accessor'. XP accepts a user's input, used it as a constant for searching and linking across various domains (e.g. search function under My Document). Please note that the implementation details should NOT be considered as long as the function/concept is included in the recorded prior arts. See 35 USC § 112 (1) rejections and 35 USC § 103 rejections (claims include the amendments) herein below:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

9. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

10. Claims 1, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 1 recites: 'constant accessors that enables actions and conditions to relate information across different domains.....'; Claim 12 recites, "resolving a value for a constant accessor across a plurality of domains"; however, in paragraph 0136 of the current Specification, "Accessor component 520 is operable to search though all accessible domains 520, 530, and 540 to try and resolve or

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link to the value(s) associated with the members of the group specified by the input constant.” -- it’s not clear **does the ‘constant accessor’ or the ‘accessor component’ perform the searching and linking? And how does the ‘constant accessor’ in claim 1 get entered to the system?**

11. Claims 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. “uninstalling an application comprising: breaking a dependency that is created in part via a constant accessor”; however, in paragraphs 0497 and 0498 of the current Specification, “Extension component 3420 creates conditions and actions based on candidate functions. Extension component 3420 is can be called by an installation script at installation time to bind candidate functions to applications.”, further “Once bindings or dependencies have been established it should be noted that they can be broken in numerous ways. For instance, a function implemented by an application may become unavailable (i.e., broken dependency) if the application is uninstalled.” -- it’s not clear **does the ‘constant accessor’ or the ‘extension component’ perform the breaking and unbinding? Also how does the ‘constant accessor’ in claim 15 get entered to the method of uninstalling an application?**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 1-8, 10-20, 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft XP version 5.1, in view of "Algorithm Solutions Software GmbH", 2002/10/16, hereinafter "Accessor".

Claim

1. A system for dynamically extending application preference classes comprising:

- a. a first executable application including one or more functions that are registered in a registry component;
- b. an extension component that reads function data from the registry component binds between a second executable application to the first executable application, wherein second application preference class declarations are bound to the functions provided by the first executable application, and
- c. a constant accessor that enables actions and conditions to relate information across different domains, to at least one of resolve and link values associated with a bind of the first executable application and the second executable application.

Microsof XP / Accessor

Microsoft XP teaches a dynamically extending application preference classes system, which allows user to extend a preference class by simply editing the extension data file (EDF), see the attached printouts below the table.

The Microsoft XP version 5.1 allows user to customize their own PC, for any existing preference class, user can add (extend)/delete(remove)/modify existing registry component (e.g. Personal Folders). The example icon printed below is displayed after user selects "File" → "Folder" → "New Folder", this event allows a user to create a new personal folder for "Mail Items". – a new mail folder name can be a second executable application, which can be **bound with the** original 'Microsoft Outlook Personal Folder'; so the newly added folder name will be displayed when the user cliciks 'Personal Folders' when running Microsoft Outlook. The items a and b's teachings are abstract and general, they do not distinguish from XP's functions. XP teaches all the aspects of claim 1, but it doesn't mention 'constant accessor' specifically (actually XP must have a way to iterate through all the domains in order to do its searches), however, Accessor teaches it in an analogous prior art. In Accessor, 3rd page, 3rd paragraph, "This

function overwrites the value of the attribute managed by the data accessor *da* for the node or edge marked by the iterator *it* by *value*. The data accessor classes that do not provide a function template *set* realize attributes in such a way that a function *set* does not make sense or is even impossible. The *constant accessor* in sect. Constant Accessors is a concrete example: **it realizes an attribute that is constant over the whole attributed set and over the whole time of the program.** Hence, it does not make sense to provide a function *set*. Moreover, since the constant accessor class organizes its attribute in a non-materialized fashion, an overwriting function *set* is even impossible. ... The first, nested loop accesses all edges once. **More specifically, the outer loop iterates over all nodes of the graph, and the inner loop iterates over all edges leaving the current node of the outer loop (*enables actions and conditions to relate information across different domains*).** Hence, for each edge, the value of the attribute managed by the data accessor *da* is overwritten by *t*. In the second loop, a linear edge iterator is used to check whether the first loop has set all values correctly.”—from the description above, the concept of Accessor is similar to the description in paragraph 0014 of current application about ‘constant accessor’. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to supplement the feature of XP by using a constant accessor in order to iterate all the element across different domains further taught by Accessor for the purpose of accessing all items in a linear sequence step-by-step (see

Accessor page 1, 1st paragraph).

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the registry component comprises a definition registry for storing function definitions and a binding registry for storing binding data.

For claim 1 feature see claim 1 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore it comprises a definition registry for storing function definitions and a binding registry for storing binding data.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the functions provide conditions.

For claim 1 feature see claim 1 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore the function must be providing conditions.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the functions provide events.

For claim 1 feature see claim 1 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore the function must be providing events.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the functions provide accessors.

For claim 1 feature see claim 1 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore the function must be providing accessors.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein functions are only available for binding to specific applications.

For claim 1 feature see claim 1 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore the functions are only available for binding to specific applications.

7. The system of claim 2, wherein the binding registry receives function binding information from an extension data file (EDF).

For claim 2 feature see claim 2 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore the binding registry receives function binding information from an extension data file.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein binding is broken upon removal of function providing application.

For claim 1 feature see claim 1 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore the binding is broken when a removal of function is done.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the

See claim 1 rejection.

constant accessor is a first order constant accessor.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the constant accessor is an Nth order constant accessor.

See claim 1 rejection, when iterating nested loops, it can be an Nth order constant accessor.

12. A method for extending application preference class functionality comprising:
(a) receiving an extension data file (EDF) containing information about candidate function bindings;
(b) registering one or more function bindings in a central data store;
(c) binding a function of a first executable application to a preference class of a second executable application utilizing binding function information located in the central data store, and
(d) resolving a value for a constant accessor across a plurality of domains.

See claim 1 rejection.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising applying acceptance logic to determine whether the second application will accept the binding.

For claim 12 feature see claim 12 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore acceptance logic must be applied to determine whether the second application will accept the binding.

14. A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 12.

For claim 12 feature see claim 1 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore the computer executable instructions must be stored in order to carry out the method of the XP functions.

15. A method of uninstalling an application comprising:
(a) breaking a dependency that is created in part via a constant accessor;
(b) removing all application registrations from central storage location;
(c) removing Program Components; and

For uninstalling, simply do the opposite thing, at "File" → "Folder" → "Delete" a folder – the designated folder and all associated functions will be removed.

(d) notifying dependant applications.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the central storage location is an instance registry.

For claim 15 feature see claim 15 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore there must be a central storage location for instance registry.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the instance registry comprises a definition registry and a binding registry.

For claim 16 feature see claim 16 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore the instance registry must comprise a definition registry and a binding registry.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein removing registrations comprises removing registrations in the definition registry and the binding registry.

For claim 17 feature see claim 17 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore it allows user to remove a registration, also see claim 15 rejection.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the notifying dependant applications causes dependant applications to place their dependencies in a NotAvailable state.

For claim 15 feature see claim 15 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore when it removes a registration, it can mark the dependant application to a 'NotAvailable' state. – It's actually an implementation detail.

20. A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 15.

For claim 12 feature see claim 1 rejection, XP allows users to customize their own PCs, therefore the computer executable instructions must be stored in order to carry out the method of the XP functions.

22. The system of claim 15, wherein the constant accessor is a first order constant accessor.

For claim 15 feature see claim 15 rejection, for the rest of claim 22 feature see claim 10 rejection.

23. The system of claim 15, wherein the constant accessor is an Nth order constant accessor.

For claim 15 feature see claim 15 rejection, for the rest of claim 23 feature see claim 11 rejection.

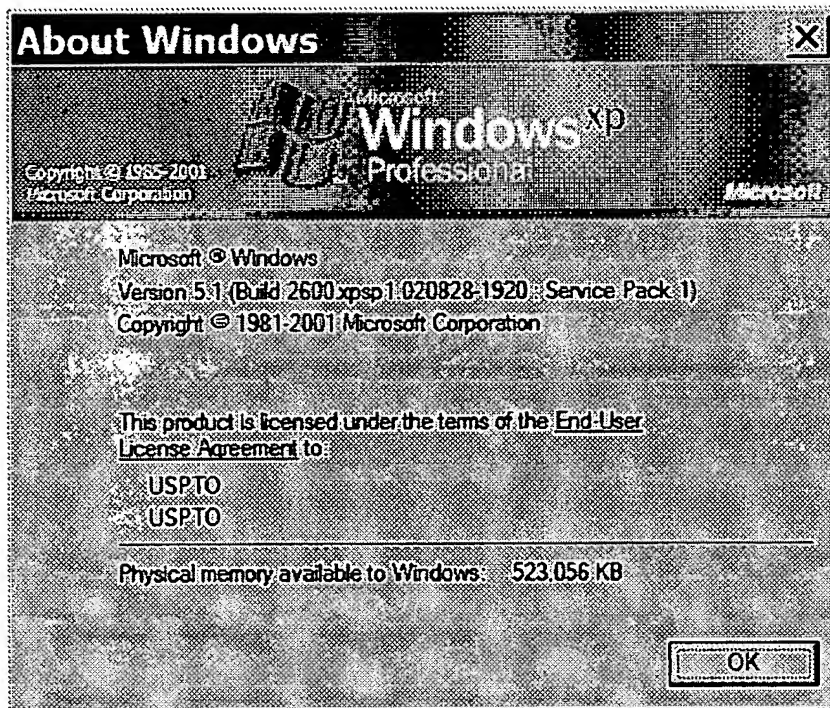
24. A computer readable medium having

Same as claim 20 rejection.

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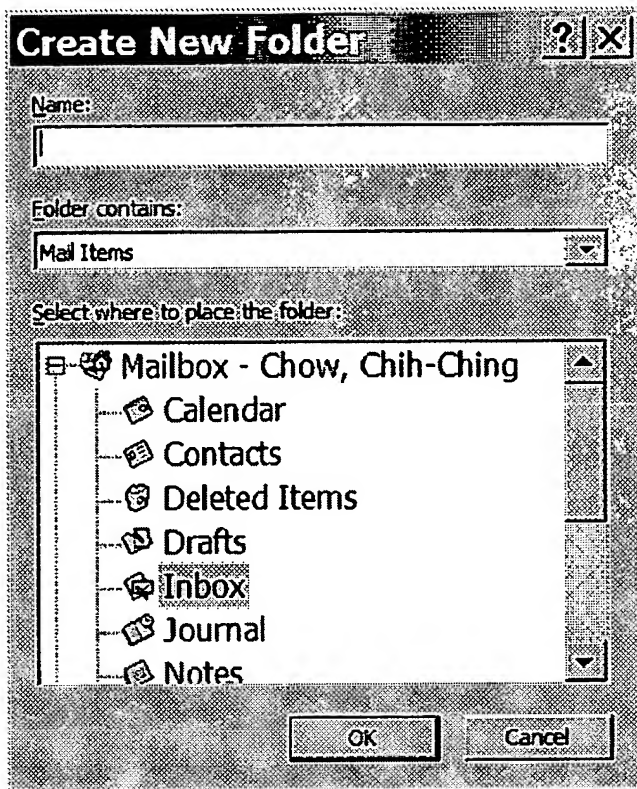
stored thereon computer executable
instructions for carrying out the method of
claim 15.

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Conclusion

14. The following summarizes the status of the claims:

35 USC § 112 (1) rejection: Claims 1, 12, and 15

35 USC § 103 rejection: Claims 1-8, 10-20, 22-24

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Ching Chow whose telephone number is 571-272-3693. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Any

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inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the **TC2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.**

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chih-Ching Chow

Examiner

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October 27, 2005

CC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Nguyen-Ba". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" and last name "Nguyen-Ba" clearly distinguishable.

**ANTONY NGUYEN-BA
PRIMARY EXAMINER**